

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3218
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2001
R & D IN STEEL SECTOR
RAM SHAKAL

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of investment/expenditure made on research and development work on steel in various public and private sector units along with the results achieved therefrom;
- (b) whether the government propose to increase investment on research and development with a view to produce good quality steel in terms of world class quality and low cost;
- (c) if so, the details thereof:
- (d) the total investment proposed in public and private sector steel units during the current year and coming three years; and
- (e) the present status of ongoing research and development projects in public / private sector along with the names of projects under consideration?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY)

(a) According to information available, Public Sector Steel Plants spent Rs.54.33 crore and Private Sector Steel Plants spent Rs.16.0183 crore during the year 2000-01. Both Public and Private Sector Steel Plants have completed several research projects related to iron & steel, yielding benefits in terms of process optimization, increase in productivity, improvement in quality, development of improved steel products, reduction in cost of production, reduction in energy consumption, utilization of solid waste etc.

(b)&(c): To supplement Research & Development activities in the iron & steel sector, Government of India have decided to spend up to Rs. 150 crore per annum from the interest proceeds of Steel Development Fund (SDF). Accordingly, an Empowered Committee (EC) has been set up in the Ministry of Steel to approve and monitor Research and Development projects in Iron and Steel Sector. So far 24 research projects have been approved with total cost of Rs. 167.92 crores (approx.) Out of these, SDF contribution will be Rs. 85.26 crores. The research areas covered by these projects include improvement if quality of steel products, reduction in cost of production etc. in the Indian iron and steel plants

(d) The total investment in Research and Development by Public and Private Sector Steel Plants in the current years and in the coming three years are expected to be marginally higher than that in the previous year (2000-01).

(e) According to available information, the public and private sector steel plants are pursuing 38 major research and development projects during the current year (2001-02). These projects concern different areas of iron and steel making, up-gradation of raw materials, product development, increase in productivity, reduction of energy consumption and reduction in cost of production etc.